



BE  
YOUR  
BEST

**INDEPENDENCE ACADEMY  
STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK**

**2014/2015**

**505 East 124<sup>th</sup> Ave.**

**Thornton, CO 80241**

**Main Line: 720-972-6560**

**Attendance Line: 720-972-6574**

## HANDBOOK EXPECTATIONS

This handbook is designed to familiarize students and families with an overview of Independence Academy and our values, rules, regulations, and policies. Please take the time to read it carefully.

It should be understood that the information in this handbook is the reference guide for the successful operation of our program and that students are directed to comply with the outlined expectations in this handbook.

We realize that this handbook is not inclusive of every school situation, but we hope that it clarifies most policies of the school and the school district.

If you do not understand or if you need further information about any of the contents, please contact us at your earliest convenience.

Our goal is to provide a positive and meaningful educational experience for all of the students of Independence Academy.

## WELCOME

To Independence Academy Students and Parents/Guardians:

Welcome to Independence Academy! I am very happy to have you join our community. As the Director of Independence Academy, it is my personal mission to provide both the staff and students with the resources and support needed to provide a high quality education to your student. Our program provides a therapeutic environment with intensive academic and behavioral instruction to students with severe emotional and behavioral difficulties. Our hope is to see each student return successfully to their home school. You can depend on me to abide by the following core values throughout the school year:

- All students can learn. Student learning and growth, both academically and behaviorally will always be the foundation for my decisions.
- As educators we diligently serve the students, parents and surrounding community.
- As building leader, I will be visible and accessible. I will be open and honest with students and families, even when the conversations are difficult.
- Lastly, I will lead with the upmost integrity; the more transparent we are about our work, the better we understand what it takes to make progress. I will always be open to hearing more effective, efficient ways to do our difficult work.

Sincerely,

Katrina Fernandez  
Director

### Independence Academy Staff/Phone Numbers

All District Phone Numbers: 720-972 –

Staff Name	Title	Phone Number Ext.
Main Line		6560
Fax		6572
Attendance Line		6574
Katrina Fernandez	Director	6563
TBD	Office Manager	8261
TBD	Health Aide	6562
Megan Vanhoutte	Mental Health Provider	6564
Salla Quarles	Mental Health Provider	6574
Leanne Greenquist	Affective Education Teacher	6565
Lori Clark	Science Teacher	6566
Sara Monacelli	Math Teacher	6567
Joseph Encarnacao	Literacy Extensions Teacher	6569
ZoeAnn Corn	Language Arts Teacher	6570
Lyle Monzyk	Social Studies Teacher	6571
Leslie Bousfield	ParaEducator	
Rosemary Miller	ParaEducator	
Samantha Winholtz	ParaEducator	

**For ALL Records Requests, Transcripts, IEP's etc. please contact:**

Tricia Carter  
 720-972-8265  
 720-972-8279 (fax)



# INDEPENDENCE ACADEMY

## BE YOUR BEST!

### MISSION

Independence Academy will provide an individualized, safe, supportive learning environment for youth with challenging behaviors. Our goal is to teach students the behavioral and academic skills necessary to be successful in their education and lifelong goals.

### VISION

We are committed to teaching academic and behavioral skills in order to develop accountable, safe, respectful and positive individuals who are ready to transition to a traditional school setting.

### VALUES – We believe in...

#### AccountaBility

- Teachers and students will show up everyday ready to teach and learn
- We believe in taking responsibility for our actions

#### SafEty

- Teachers and students will create an environment where all individuals feel safe
- We believe in respecting personal boundaries

#### ReSpect

- Teachers and students will support and celebrate individual differences
- We believe in supporting positive choices with Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support

#### PosiTive Attitude

- We believe that all students can learn and progress

## WE ARE INDEPENDENCE ACADEMY...

Independence Academy provides each student a safe, relevant and rigorous learning environment. We believe that students with behavioral challenges deserve a high quality education and are able to learn the interpersonal development skills necessary to be successful in their traditional school setting, their community, and their lifelong goals. Our staff is well equipped to serve students of diverse needs and backgrounds as well as students in special education. Each student who enters our school has the special opportunity for a new start and the appropriate programming to meet their academic, social, emotional, and physical needs. We work hard to form strong relationships with our students and families.

At Independence Academy, each student has the opportunity to “Be Their Best” every day. Our program focuses on four key expectations:

**AccountaBility:** Students will show up on a daily basis and be responsible for their actions. Students need to follow staff directions.

**SafEty:** Students will keep their hands and feet to themselves and will use property appropriately.

**ReSect:** Students will use appropriate language and tone. As students develop new skills they will start to use positive social skills with adults and with their peers.

**PosiTive Attitude:** Students will try their best every day and participate in their learning.

Independence Academy staff, with student input, will monitor student’s behavior on a daily basis. Using a body of evidence (sending school recommendations, family input, student input, IEP etc.), students will work on two to three interpersonal development goals throughout their stay at Independence Academy. Progress on these goals will be monitored and evaluated at the end of every class hour. Student progress will also be evaluated by: grades, attendance, discipline record and positive actions/contributions to the school. Every four weeks, staff will evaluate and analyze student progress and determine if students can move to the next Phase of the program. Upon entry to Independence Academy, students have two weeks to become oriented to the program. This provides students with a chance to learn about our program and our expectations; as well as gives staff a chance to get to know students in order to plan and prepare for their program at Independence Academy. As students acquire and demonstrate new academic and behavioral skills, they will progress through the Phase System. When students reach Phase Three a meeting is held to discuss the students’ next step in their education. This meeting determines if a student has successfully completed our program and is able to move towards Transition. Even though a student might move to Transition status at eight different times throughout the school year, students can only transition at the quarter break. This allows for learning continuity – instruction and grading consistency. This system is clearly outlined in following pages.

We know that changing behavior takes more than just a strong, structured behavior management system. Students with challenging behavior have lagging skills in the areas of emotional regulation, cognitive flexibility, executive functioning, social skills, and language processing. Our program provides intensive instruction in affective skills development in order to address those lagging skills. We use a variety of research-based curriculum and techniques to identify what skills students need to learn and how we will teach students those skills. We provide numerous opportunities for students to practice and generalize those skills, and frequent, specific feedback and reinforcement when students use their new skills.

We also know that providing students with high, quality academic program is just as important as providing a strong affective program. Independence Academy provides courses in the four core areas: language arts, math, science and social studies. Our teachers use the Colorado Model Content Standards, District approved curriculum, and the District Teaching and Learning Cycle to plan and implement academic instruction. The TLC is a comprehensive and strategic structure to support educators in achieving High Quality Instruction, for Every Child, In Every Classroom, Every Day. The TLC has 2 critical components (Collaboration and Mission/Vision) and six phases (Study, Select, Plan, Implement, Analyze and Adjust) that serve to answer the following questions:

- What do we want educators to know and be able to do?
- What do we want students to know and be able to do?
- How will we effectively teach to ensure students learn?
- How will we know the students have learned?
- What do we do when students don't learn or reach proficiency before expectation?

IA staff believes that in order to provide your student with the highest quality of education, we must create a learning environment that has a balanced focus on students' understanding and application of new skills, academically and behaviorally. We believe that learning is more than learning new skills. It is the understanding of underlying concepts and principals that can be applied to new problems and in new situations, both in the academic and in the behavioral worlds. Our teaching staff will strive to teach big ideas and the understanding of problems and challenges, so that students can understand concepts at a deeper level.

Our staff will strive to create authentic assessments that focus on how, where and why students use new skills. We believe that in order to provide students with valid measures of their understanding, we must create assessments that promote generalization of skills necessary for success in life, as well as in school.

The staff at Independence Academy strives to make data-based instructional decisions on a regular basis. Upon entering IA, your student will be assessed in all areas (reading, writing, math, affective needs) in order to determine the most appropriate academic and behavioral programming placement. Throughout their time at IA, students will be assessed regularly to measure progress towards both their individual and standards-based goals. This progress will

be reported to parents. If, at any time, there are questions about where your student is functioning both academically and/or behaviorally, please feel free to contact your student's service coordinator for details.

The TLC, in conjunction with your student's Individualized Education Plan, will drive our instruction to meet the needs of every student at Independence Academy.

## School Calendar

The 2014/2015 school calendar is on the back page of this handbook.

The Phase Advancement Meetings for the 2014/2015 school year are:

September 19, 2014

October 17, 2014

November 14, 2014

December 19, 2014

February 6, 2015

March 13, 2015

April 24, 2015

May 22, 2015

Parent-Teacher Conferences for the 2014/2015 school year are:

October 9, 2014      4:00 – 7:30

March 5, 2015      4:00 – 7:00

Again, students are only able to transition to a comprehensive middle school or high school at the end of every quarter. These dates for the 2014/2015 school year are:

October 17, 2014

December 18, 2014

March 13, 2015

May 27, 2015

Assessment Calendar for 2014/2015 school year:

CMAS: Science/Social Studies – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students – November 3 – November 21

PARCC: Math/Language Arts – 6<sup>th</sup> grade – 10<sup>th</sup> grade students – March 9 – April 3

CMAS: Science/Social Studies – 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade students – April 13 – May 1

PARCC: Second Math/Language Arts – 6<sup>th</sup> grade – 10<sup>th</sup> grade students – April 27 – May 22

ACT: 11<sup>th</sup> grade students – April 28

## COURSE OFFERINGS/SCHEDULE

-Each student will be provided with a course syllabus for each class-

Time:	Class:
8:30 – 8:45	Check-in/Homeroom
8:45 – 9:41	Class One
9:41 – 10:37	Class Two
10:37 – 11:33	Class Three
11:33 – 12:18	Class Four
12:18 – 12:33	Lunch
12:33 – 1:29	Class Five
1:29 – 2:25	Class Six
2:25 – 3:10	Class Seven
3:10 – 3:15	Check-out/Homeroom

### **Courses:**

#### **Math**

Middle School and High School Math courses will be offered in a blended instruction format. For students who are not performing on grade level, they will engage with a curriculum called Number Worlds. For students who are performing at or above grade level, they will join the Number Worlds learning when appropriate or will access District, grade level courses on-line through Compass Learning.

#### **Middle School Language Arts and High School English**

These classes will be taught by a highly qualified language arts teacher and special education teacher. Instruction is delivered through the reading and writing workshop model. Students who have deficits in their reading and writing skills or are performing below grade level will receive intensive, individualized small group instruction. Students will take two Language Arts and/or English courses a day, one course with an emphasis on writing and the other with an emphasis on reading.

#### **Social Studies**

The social studies focus for middle school students is Geography for the 2014/2015 school year. This course will follow the Geography State Standards and students will access the District approved curriculum. Instruction will be modified and differentiated based on students' needs.

High School students will have access to World History for the 2014/2015 school year. Again, these courses follow state and district guidelines and are required for high school graduation.

**Science**

The science focus for middle school students is Physical Science for the 2014/2015 school year. This course will follow State Standards and students will access the District approved curriculum and framework. Instruction will be modified and differentiated based on students' needs.

Physics is the high school science course offered at Independence Academy. Again, this course follows state and district guidelines and is required for high school graduation.

**Interpersonal Development**

This course is designed to meet the individualized affective needs of each student. The majority of the instruction is whole group instruction with a lot of time set aside for role playing new skills. This course also provides students an opportunity to use group social skills in order to have informed discussions about the challenges that students face at school, at home or in their community.

**Elective**

Students can choose between a PE elective or an Art elective.

**ARRIVAL OF STUDENTS**

Students should arrive no earlier than 8:30 am. No student should be in the building unless staff has given permission. Students will be allowed in the building starting at 8:30. Staff will greet students at our entrance and direct students to the cafeteria. Staff will be located in the cafeteria ready to take lunch orders, search students, and direct students to their homeroom.

If a student is late to school, that student must enter through the main front doors of the building. The student will check-in with the office manager and be directed to Independence Academy. For early departure during the day, the parent must check the student out through the office signing the check in/out sheet.

**DISMISSAL OF STUDENTS**

Upon dismissal, students are required to go directly home. If the student takes district transportation, students are expected to go home on the bus unless they have parent permission to go home an alternative way. Students are escorted to the bus by their homeroom teacher. Teachers will wait with their students until all students are gone. If a parent fails to pick up a student or if a student misses their bus, the teacher must bring the student to the office and help that student contact the parent.

If a student refuses to go home, please notify the Director or the Mental Health Staff.

## CHECK-IN

School starts promptly at 8:30. All students need to be dropped off on the North side building entrance. Students will be greeted by Independence Academy staff and directed to the lunch room. In the lunch room, students will check-in individually with Independence Academy staff. During check-in students will request hot lunch if needed. On a daily basis, students' personal belongings will be searched by staff. Students will be also be searched by showing their pockets to staff. **(Search and Seizure Supt. Policy 5130)**

## HOMEROOM

Each student will be assigned to a homeroom. Homeroom serves a variety of purposes. First and foremost, homeroom functions as a "home base" for your student. During morning homeroom, students are able to prepare for the school day by checking in with their teacher. During afternoon homeroom, students are able to debrief and process their day with their teacher and prepare for home.

The homeroom teacher also serves as the primary point of contact for your family. The homeroom teacher will set up an individualized communication system between school and home. The homeroom teacher is responsible for tracking your student's progress in our system and notifying the family of any concerns the school might have. Also, if the student and family have questions and/or concerns about the program the homeroom teacher is your first point of contact. If your student is in special education the homeroom teacher will be the service coordinator for any IEP related meetings and/or questions.

## BREAKFAST/LUNCH

Breakfast will be provided to all students during morning homeroom.

A well-balanced lunch is served everyday in our lunch room. Students may purchase lunch or bring lunch from home. You can pay for your child's lunch on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis on line. Lunch prices will be provided during intake and students are provided with monthly menus from their homeroom teacher. An application for free and reduced lunch is also included in the intake packet.

If your student forgets his/her lunch or is unable to bring lunch for whatever reason, Independence Academy will provide your student with lunch. However, if this becomes a habit (more than 3 times per quarter), your student's homeroom teacher will make a phone call home to work on a solution with the student and family.

Students are NOT allowed to sell their food to other students. Students may share food with staff approval.

**INDEPENDENCE ACADEMY IS A CLOSED CAMPUS  
STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO CHECK OUT WITH THEIR HOMEROOM TEACHER AND IN THE  
MAIN OFFICE IF LEAVING DURING SCHOOL HOURS. IF A STUDENT LEAVES DURING SCHOOL  
HOURS WITHOUT PERMISSION, STAFF WILL NOTIFY PARENTS/GUARDIANS AND POSSIBLY  
CONTACT LAW ENFORCEMENT**

### **ATTENDANCE**

Regular attendance at Independence Academy is critical to academic and behavioral success. Students who are not in class will not succeed. It is expected that all students attend school unless there is an illness or family emergency. Salla Quarles is responsible for our attendance data; she needs to be contacted at 720-972-6574 by 8:00 a.m. on the morning of the absence. **(Student Attendance Supt. Policy 5020)**

If a student's pattern or volume of absences are adversely affecting his/her academic success, the following can occur:

1. Parent and student meet with the director and service coordinator to develop an attendance contract.
2. If the attendance contract is violated the student could be referred to the Truancy Reduction program and then Adams County Court.
3. In extreme cases, social services may be contacted concerning educational neglect.

### **MAKEUP WORK**

Students are responsible for any class work missed due to any absence. It is the student's responsibility to request the required makeup work from the teachers. It is the student's responsibility to turn in their work in a timely manner. Providing work for extended absences will be reviewed on an individual basis.

### **HOMEWORK**

As students progress through our program, students will be assigned and expected to complete homework. Teachers understand that homework should be a time to practice and reinforce what has already been covered in class. We also know that students, who are below grade level in reading, only improve if they are spending extended time in text. Because of this we highly encourage families to set aside reading time for their student every night. For students and families who are committed to improving their reading skills, Independence Academy does have a reading homework program that you can learn about at intake.

## GRADING

We know that students can show proficiency towards a standard in a variety of ways, and we are committed to providing students a variety of ways to show what they know and are able to do. Teachers use a variety of assessment techniques to determine students' grades. These techniques include, but are not limited to quizzes, tests, projects, professional observation, independence study, daily work production, self-assessment, reflection, journaling, portfolios, and review of goals/objective accomplished. We encourage students to participate and engage in each of their classes – this can be monitored through their daily point sheets. Their grade for a course reflects a student's mastery of a standard within the content area. Independence Academy uses a 50 grading point scale.

## ASSESSMENT

The District administers a variety of assessments to measure student learning and improve curriculum and instruction. These common assessments include:

*Assessment for learning* occurs during teaching and learning and focuses on ongoing improvement. Teacher check student understanding through in-class work, homework, quizzes, etc. These assessments are on-going, so teacher can modify lessons to make sure that students are learning. Students receive feedback on an ongoing basis about how well they are doing, where they are in their learning and where they are going.

*Assessment of learning* gathers information about how well students have mastered what they should know at their grade level. The PARCC and CMAS are these kinds of tests. This state-mandated testing program measures what students have already learned and provides accountability to parents and the community.

## REPORT CARDS/MID-TERM PROGRESS REPORTS

Students and parents are given notification of academic progress throughout the school year. Report cards are mailed home approximately two week following the completion of each quarter. IEP progress reports are also mailed home at the same time. Individual class progress reports are updated weekly in Infinite Campus. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of academic progress, attendance, and missing assignments on a regular basis. It has been demonstrated that successful students have regular interaction and dialogue with their parents about school progress. We encourage parents and students to work together to include this important component for success. Students must be passing ALL of their classes in order to hold a transition meeting.

## DRESS CODE

Students are expected to follow the District Dress Code (**Student Dress Code Supt. 5060**). If your student is in violation of the dress code the following procedures will take place:

Except when other contributing policy violations or safety concerns exist, the typical progression of intervention for dress code violations is:

**1st Offense** – warning and education about the policy and the student being provided an opportunity to correct the violation.

**2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Offense** – parent phone call and change of clothing to stay at school (shirt inside out, wear another shirt, cover up etc.)

**4<sup>th</sup> Offense** – Problem solving conference with Director and homeroom teacher

**5<sup>th</sup> Offense** - sanctions up to one (1) day out-of-school suspension and requirement that parent and student review and sign a statement indicating their understanding of the “Student Dress Code” policy.

## CELL PHONE AND OTHER PERSONAL ELECTRONICS

Students may carry their cell phone and/or personal electronic devices throughout the school day. Use of these devices is **Directed by the Classroom Teacher Only**. If a student is using their device inappropriately the violation system outlined below will be used. If you have lost this privilege, these items may be checked in during morning check-in, locked up for the day, and returned at the end of the day. Independence Academy encourages students and families to leave these items at home.

Responsible actions in regard to property is expected. Theft of these items will not be investigated by Independence Academy. Students bring these items to school at their own risk. (**Student Use of Cell Phone and Other Personal Electronic Devices Supt. Policy 5030**).

If your student is in violation of this policy, the following action will take place:

The typical progression of consequences for violations as described in the policy includes:

**1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> offense** - The device should be confiscated and the parent should be notified. The device may be released to the student after the student reviews and signs the policy.

**3<sup>rd</sup> offense** - The device should be confiscated and the parent should be notified. The device may be released only to the parent after the parent reviews and signs the policy.

**4<sup>th</sup> or more** – Such offenses are considered disruptive behavior and should result in a minimum of one day of suspension to be served in or out of school at the discretion of administration. Subsequent violations may result in increasing suspensions of up to three (3) days. Under all circumstances students shall be personally and solely responsible for the

security of their cell phones and personal electronic devices. Adams 12 Five Star Schools shall not assume responsibility for theft, loss, or damage of any such device and will not be responsible for investigation of such incidents.

### **DISCIPLINARY GUIDELINES**

Students are reminded that Independence Academy provides them with the opportunity for a new start and the chance to change their behavior to become successful. We provide students with numerous chances to change their behavior and make a better choice when they break school rules. Every mistake provides a student with a chance to learn by correcting their behavior and implementing a new skill. Students and families are expected to work with the staff at Independence Academy to collaboratively solve any concerns that arise. Independence Academy strives to keep students at school and prefers to impose alternatives to suspensions when expectations are not met. Alternatives to suspensions are, but not limited to:

- Teacher/Student Problem Solving Conference
- Director/Student Problem Solving Conference
- Staff/Student/Parent Problem Solving Conference
- Staff directed taking space
- Brief removal from class
- Community service during lunch, Friday Fun, or afterschool
- In-School Suspension

When flagrant infractions of school board policies, building rules, and/or classroom expectations occur, the following will be followed. These infractions may result in immediate suspension from school. They may all lead to recommendation for expulsion. These infractions include:

- Fighting
- Substance abuse
- Weapons
- Violation of Safe School Policy (gang affiliation)

For flagrant, habitual incidents, the following procedures will be followed

- A Functional Behavior Analysis (FBA) will be conducted by the IEP team and a Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP) will be implemented.
- Students may be placed on the District Remedial Discipline Plan which may result in a district hearing to consider expulsion.

When a student is upset and is posing a threat to his/her safety as well as the safety of staff members, Independence Academy will use restraint and/or seclusion in order to establish safety. All staff members are trained in de-escalation and restraint through the Crisis

Prevention Institute. If staff is unable to restrain the student safely, law enforcement will be notified. Parents/Guardians will be notified if this occurs and a re-entry meeting held with the student. (**Physical Restraint/Seclusion Supt. Policy 5150**).

### **PARENT/GUARDIAN CONCERNS**

Again, Independence Academy strives to work as a team with students and their families. Changing behavior can be difficult and frustrating not only to students but to their families as well. We welcome input from families and always welcome feedback if there are concerns. If you have a concern please immediately contact your student's homeroom teacher and/or the director to set up a meeting. We will do our best to work together in order to prepare your student for success.



# Adams 12 Five Star Schools

## STUDENT/PARENT

### HANDBOOK INFORMATION

This document is provided as a resource to parents and students within the Adams 12 Five Star School District. The document is divided into four sections.

1. Legal Notifications
2. Student Code of Conduct
3. Commonly Requested Information
4. Student Health Information

Readers should be aware that:

- Much of the information is in summary form.
- Current policies in their entirety, including revisions which may have occurred after publication of this document, are available on the district website at [www.adams12.org](http://www.adams12.org).
- Policies may also be reviewed in the administrative office of any district school or by calling the Adams 12 Educational Support Center at 720-972-4000.
- Policies are subject to change as necessary at any time during the school year.
- Students are expected to be knowledgeable about and comply with district and school policies, including ones which may not be included in this publication.

## LEGAL NOTIFICATIONS

### **Notice of Non-Discrimination Under Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, Age Discrimination Act, Title II of the American with Disabilities Act (Supt. Policies 4140, 8400)**

Adams 12 Five Star Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, age, religion, creed, national origin, ancestry, genetic information, marital status, sexual orientation gender identity and disability in its programs, activities, operations and employment decisions and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

General Counsel  
Adams 12 Five Star Schools  
1500 East 128th Avenue  
Thornton, CO 80241  
720-972-4004

### **Homeless Students Notification (Supt. Policy 5270)**

Specific rights and protections are ensured to parents, children and youth experiencing homelessness as defined under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. For more information about services for homeless students refer to Superintendent Policy 5270 or contact the Homeless/Migrant Education Liaison at 720 972-4144.

### **Notification of Rights under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) & Colorado Open Records Act (CORA) (Supt. Policy 5300)**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the School receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the School principal a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The School official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records, that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA. Parents or eligible students who wish to ask the School to amend a record should write the School principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the School decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the School will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. The right to privacy of personally identifiable information in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.
- One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the District as an administrator, supervisor, teacher, or support staff member (including but not limited to paraprofessionals, transportation personnel, health and law enforcement unit personnel and before-and-after-school program personnel); a member of the school board; a person, agency or company with whom the District has contracted, or otherwise arranged to perform a specific task or service; or, a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another "school official" in performing his or her tasks.
- A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.
- Upon request, the District discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes of the student's enrollment or transfer.
1. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA are:
- Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202
- Additionally, the Colorado Open Records Act generally requires education records to be furnished within 3 days of the day the School receives a request for access.

### **FERPA Notice for Directory Information (Supt. Policy 5300)**

FERPA requires that the District, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, the District may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised the District to the contrary in accordance with District procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the District to include this type of information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Examples include:

- A playbill, showing your student's role in a drama production;
- The annual yearbook;
- Honor roll or other recognition lists;
- Graduation programs; and
- Sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members.

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, two federal laws require local educational agencies (LEAs) receiving assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) to provide military recruiters, upon request, with three directory information categories – names, addresses and telephone listings – unless parents have advised the LEA that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent.

Parents and eligible students that do not want the District to disclose directory information from your child's education records without prior written consent, must give written notice by October 1 of the current school year to the principal of the school in which the child is enrolled. The District has designated the following information as directory information:

- Student's name
- Student's Grade
- Photograph
- Dates of attendance
- Participation in officially recognized activities & sports
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Major field of study
- Degrees, honors, and awards received
- Date and place of birth
- The most recent previous educational agency or institution attended

### **Student Sex Offenders (Supt. Policy 5900)**

Superintendent Policy 5900 addresses management of student sex offenders. Further, Colorado Revised Statute 22-1-124 instructs school districts to notify parents of their right to request information concerning registered sex offenders in the community. More information on accessing such information may be obtained online at either of the following:

[http://dcj.state.co.us/odvsom/Sex\\_Offender/SO\\_Pdfs/schoolresourceguideregistration.pdf](http://dcj.state.co.us/odvsom/Sex_Offender/SO_Pdfs/schoolresourceguideregistration.pdf)

OR

[http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeprevention/download/pdf/School\\_Sex\\_Offender\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeprevention/download/pdf/School_Sex_Offender_Guide.pdf)

Superintendent Policy 5900 provides more information about this topic. For additional information parents may also contact the District's Manager of Security Services at 720-972-4256.

### **Notification of Rights under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) (Supt. Policy 6510)**

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) affords parents certain rights regarding our conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These include the right to:

- Consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas (“protected information survey”) if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education (ED)–
  1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student’s parent;
  2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student’s family;
  3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
  4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
  5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
  6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
  7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
  8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.
- Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of –
  1. Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding;
  2. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law; and
  3. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.
- Inspect, upon request and before administration or use –
  1. Protected information surveys of students;
  2. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
  3. Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

These rights transfer from the parents to a student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under State law.

The District has developed and adopted policies, in consultation with parents, regarding these rights, as well as arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected information surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes. The District will directly notify parents of these policies at least annually at the start of each school year and after any substantive changes. The District will also directly notify, such as through U.S. Mail or email, parents of students who are scheduled to participate in the specific activities or surveys noted below and will provide an opportunity for the parent to opt his or her child out of participation of the specific activity or survey. The District will make this notification to parents at the beginning of the school year if the District has identified the specific or approximate dates of the activities or surveys at that time. For surveys and activities scheduled after the school year starts, parents will be provided reasonable notification of the planned activities and surveys listed below and be provided an opportunity to opt their child out of such activities and surveys. Parents will also be provided an opportunity to review any pertinent surveys. Following is a list of the specific activities and surveys covered under this requirement:

- Collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution.
- Administration of any protected information survey not funded in whole or in part by ED.
- Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening as described above.

Parents who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202-8520

### **Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) Annual Legal Notification**

In accordance with the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act, the District has Asbestos Management Plans available for review at each school and the Educational Support Center, 1500 E. 128th Avenue in Thornton, CO, 80241. Contact the Environmental Health and Safety Specialist, with any questions. Telephone: 720-972-4236.

# STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

The descriptions below are summaries of more detailed policies. Collectively, these policies comprise the District's Student Code of Conduct. For complete information please consult the latest version of each Superintendent Policy at [www.adams12.org](http://www.adams12.org). A quick reference chart summarizing Student Code of Conduct policies is also available on the district website.

## Student Code of Conduct (Supt. Policy 5000)

Students are expected to be familiar and comply with all expectations identified Superintendent Policy 5000, Student Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct identifies specific grounds for discipline including suspension or expulsion of a student. Discipline may be imposed for the following reasons:

Superintendent Policy

Code: 5000

## STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

1.0 The Code of Conduct exists to help maintain an environment which is safe, conducive to learning, and free from unnecessary disruption. The Code of Conduct primarily consists of this policy and a subsequent series of policies identifying specific behavior expectations (See Exhibit A).

1.1 Students and parents or legal guardians shall be notified through student handbooks or similar informational bulletins of District policies concerning rights and responsibilities, rules of student conduct, and due process. The Code of Conduct, including grounds for which students may be suspended or expelled, shall be distributed once to each student in elementary, middle and high school and once to each new student in the District. Matters of common knowledge or practice shall be considered as notice of existing standards of conduct for students.

1.2 The principal or administrative designee may impose sanctions including suspension or may recommend expulsion of a student who engages in conduct identified in this policy which occurs in school buildings, on school grounds, in school buses or other school owned or operated vehicles, or while attending school activities or sanctioned events.

1.3 Students may also be subject to sanctions including suspension or expulsion for behaviors that occur off campus as described by law and Superintendent Policy 5020.

### 2.0 Definitions.

2.1 School. Refers to any school within the District.

2.2 Parent. Refers to a student's parent, legal guardian or legal custodian.

3.0 Grounds for sanctions including Suspension or Expulsion from School. The principal or designated administrator may issue sanctions including suspension and may refer for expulsion a student who engages in one or more of the following activities as specifically identified by state statute.

3.1 Using or otherwise directing profanity, vulgar language, or obscene gestures toward others.

3.2 Continued willful disobedience or open and persistent defiance of proper authority.

3.3 Repeated interference with a school's ability to provide educational opportunities to other students.

3.4 Repeated or substantial disrespect to or defiance of school staff.

3.5 Possessing, distributing, and/or communicating slanderous or libelous material.

3.6 Behavior which disrupts or is intended to disrupt the educational process.

3.7 Declaration as a habitually disruptive student according to Superintendent Policy 5090.

3.8 Violation of Superintendent Policy 5080 regarding gangs, secret societies or disruptive groups.

3.9 Indecent exposure, lewd behavior, or possession of pornography (print or electronic).

3.10 Rioting, unlawful protests, illegal disruptive demonstrations or other expression that violates the rights of others on any District property.

3.11 Intentionally causing or participating in a bomb threat, false alarm, or other false notice that disrupts the school environment.

3.12 Behavior on or off school property which is detrimental to the welfare or safety of other students or of school personnel, including behavior which creates a threat of physical harm to the student or to other students. This may include behavior which recklessly endangers students, staff or others.

3.13 Throwing objects, unless otherwise part of a supervised activity, which might cause bodily injury or damage property.

3.14 Unsafe operation of a motor vehicle on school property.

3.15 Violation of Superintendent Policy 5110 regarding bullying, harassment, hazing or threats.

3.16 Violation of Superintendent Policies 5110 or 8400 regarding discrimination or harassment, including sexual harassment.

3.17 Violations of Superintendent Policy 5070 regarding violence, fighting, and other aggressive behavior.

3.18 Violation of criminal law which negatively impacts the school or the general safety or welfare of students or staff.

3.19 The commission of an act that if committed by an adult would be robbery according to Colorado statute.

3.20 The commission of an act that if committed by an adult would be assault according to Colorado statute.

3.21 Violations against staff including incidents of assault upon, disorderly conduct toward, harassment of, knowingly making false allegations of child abuse against, or any criminal act directed toward a school employee.

3.22 Violation of Superintendent Policy 5100 regarding dangerous items.

- 3.23 Violation of Superintendent Policy 5100 regarding firearms or dangerous weapons. Expulsion is mandatory for bringing or possessing a firearm at school.
- 3.24 Violation of Superintendent Policy 5050 regarding tobacco.
- 3.25 Violation of Superintendent Policy 5040 regarding controlled substances.
- 3.26 Violation of Superintendent Policy 5650 regarding posting or distributing unauthorized materials on campus.
- 3.27 Gambling or wagering items of value.
- 3.28 Lying or knowingly giving false information verbally or in writing to a staff member.
- 3.29 Scholastic dishonesty, including but not limited to cheating, plagiarism or unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic work.
- 3.30 Stealing, attempting to steal, borrowing or possessing without authorization property from another student, school employee or from the school itself.
- 3.31 Using, making or reproducing another person's signature for deceptive purposes, including counterfeiting documents or currency.
- 3.32 Failure to report a Condition that puts students or staff at risk of imminent harm.
- 3.33 Violation of Superintendent Policy 5060 regarding dress code.
- 3.34 Violation of Superintendent Policy 5030 regarding cell phones or electronic devices.
- 3.35 Violation of Superintendent Policies 5035 and 8200 regarding use of District technology or the internet.
- 3.36 Damaging private property of others.
- 3.37 Willful destruction or defacing of school property.
- 3.38 Failure to comply with Colorado law regarding immunization requirements in violation of Superintendent Policy 5410. Any suspension or expulsion for failure to comply with immunization requirements will not be documented as a disciplinary action but will be documented along with the student's immunization record and an explanation in the student's cumulative file.
- 3.39 Violation of Superintendent Policy 5120 regarding off-campus behavior.
- 3.40 Violation of Superintendent Policies or building regulations not otherwise referenced in this policy.

Exhibit A

Code: 5000

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Student conduct policies are available to all parents and students on the District's website or by request through the administrative office at each school.

Board Policy directs that student discipline methods be clear, timely and consistently applied. Students should receive information about school discipline expectations within the first four weeks of each school year. Students who arrive after the first month of school should receive information individually or in small groups as soon as possible following enrollment.

### **Student Due Process (Supt. Policy 5010)**

Superintendent Policy 5010 is a new policy created to more clearly explain due process rights students have in relation to student discipline matters. The policy identifies factors that the district administrators will consider in determining consequences or interventions for Code of Conduct violations, as well as providing an explanation of violations that will result in referrals to law enforcement. The policy further explains procedures for investigating student discipline matters, including those that may result in suspension, extended suspension or expulsion of a student, including those cases involving students with disabilities. The policy identifies procedures for suspension and expulsion and explains appeal opportunities as well as alternative to suspension or expulsion opportunities that may be available, depending on the circumstances at the time.

### **Student Attendance (Supt. Policy 5020)**

Superintendent Policy 5020 provides specific guidelines regarding student attendance. The policy describes acceptable reasons for absences, makeup work procedures and potential sanctions for poor attendance. Colorado law (22-33-104 C.R.S.) regarding compulsory attendance requires students to attend school from the age of 6 until their 17th birthday. Please be aware that the district partners closely with local juvenile courts to intervene in the cases of students whose poor attendance constitutes “habitual truancy”, defined by Colorado law as having four (4) or more unexcused absences in a month or ten (10) or more unexcused absences during any calendar year period.

### **Student Use of Cell Phone and Other Personal Electronic Devices (Supt. Policy 5030)**

Superintendent Policy 5030 permits the use of electronic devices for personal, recreational, communication or instructional purposes under specific conditions. Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary sanctions up to and including expulsion from school, depending upon the severity of the violation.

In academic settings (classroom, library, labs, etc) electronic devices must be in the “off” or “silent” position at all times and stored out of sight except when utilized, as permitted by the instructor, as assistive technology, or as part of a student’s individual education program as determined by school administration or the teacher. Teachers may impose even further restrictions at their discretion in their class.

In non-academic settings, including at school activities or on school transportation, such devices may be used in “silent mode” provided the use of such device, as determined by the supervising staff member or bus driver, in no way disrupts, poses a safety concern or otherwise violates Superintendent Policy 5000, Student Code of Conduct.

Electronic devices may not be used in a manner which is potentially unsafe, illegal or otherwise might violate the Student Code of Conduct. Prohibited uses include but are not limited to creating video or audio recordings, or taking or sending photographs of students or staff without permission of the student(s) or staff member(s). Such devices may not be used for academic dishonesty or cheating. Such devices may not be used in any manner that disrupts the academic environment, or otherwise disrupts school activities or functions. Students may not depart a class to activate or operate such devices.

The typical progression of consequences for violations as described in the policy includes:

- 1st offense. The device should be confiscated and the parent should be notified. The device may be released to the student after the student reviews and signs the policy.
- 2nd offense. The device should be confiscated and the parent should be notified. The device may be released only to the parent after the parent reviews and signs the policy.
- 3rd or more offenses. Such offenses are considered disruptive behavior and should result in a minimum of one day of suspension to be served in or out of school at the discretion of administration. Subsequent violations may result in increasing suspensions of up to three (3) days.

Under all circumstances students shall be personally and solely responsible for the security of their cell phones and personal electronic devices. Adams 12 Five Star Schools shall not assume responsibility for theft, loss, or damage of any such device and will not be responsible for investigation of such incidents.

If unique circumstances exist warranting the need for a student to use a cell phone or personal electronic device, on a temporary basis, outside the guidelines of Superintendent Policy 5030, such requests should be submitted to the Principal in writing. The Principal’s decision regarding such requests will be final.

### **Student Use of Computers, the Internet and Electronic Communications (Supt. Policy 5035)**

Superintendent Policy 5035 establishes guidelines for allowable use of the internet and other electronic media by students at school or on school equipment. Students are expected to take responsibility for their own use of District computers and computer systems, and should understand that the District may monitor, inspect, copy or review all computer use or access to computer systems including electronic mail, messages or other documents generated from District computers. Students should also understand that they may lose the privilege of accessing the internet or using District computer systems for violating appropriate use expectations. Violations of computer use expectations may also result in disciplinary sanctions from school including suspension or expulsion for extreme or repeat violations, and may be referred for legal action as warranted

Examples of prohibited types of electronic information includes but is not limited to accessing, creating or passing information that promotes violence, is pornographic or profane, is intended to bully or harass, or is used to cheat. The policy further prohibits a range of security-related violations including attempts to gain unauthorized entry into networks or to change district data records. The policy also addresses allowable student-generated content on school websites.

### **Student Drug, Alcohol and Controlled Substance Offenses (Supt. Policy 5040)**

School districts are required by law to adopt policies regarding use, possession and/or sale of drugs or other controlled substances in school, on school grounds, in school vehicles at school activities or while waiting to board or depart the bus.

Students may not knowingly use, be under the influence of, possess, bring, sell, solicit the sale of, transfer, distribute or supply a drug, controlled substance or drug paraphernalia.

Controlled substances include but are not limited to narcotic drugs, hallucinogenic or mind-altering drugs or substances, amphetamines, barbiturates, stimulants, depressants, marijuana, anabolic steroids.

Schools and law enforcement officials are trained and have the equipment to administer field sobriety tests. If a parent(s) disagrees with the determination of school or law enforcement officials that the student is under the influence of a controlled substance, the parent may seek an assessment that indicates toxicity levels within 24 hours of the incident at their own expense by a provider approved by the District. Self-admission by the student suspected of being under the influence of a controlled substance without a valid prescription constitutes sufficient evidence to proceed with disciplinary action.

Students are subject to disciplinary action up to and including suspension and expulsion for any single policy violation. Alternatives to suspension and expulsion may be offered by the school as appropriate depending on the circumstances of the violation. School officials are instructed to notify law enforcement regarding suspected violations of this policy and to cooperate with any investigation that may result.

### **Student Tobacco Possession and Use (Supt. Policy 5050)**

Superintendent Policy 5050 prohibits the use of all form of tobacco products on school property for students under 18 years of age, and prohibits possession of all tobacco products for students 17 or younger. Sanctions for violation of the policy increase in severity for repeat violations and may result in extended suspensions in extreme cases as identified in the policy. Tobacco products are defined as any form of tobacco that may be ingested by chewing, smoking or other means. Tobacco paraphernalia such as “hookahs” or electronic cigarettes are also prohibited.

Students who are trying to overcome tobacco addiction are encouraged to visit with their school counselor about resources that may be available to help them stop using tobacco.

### **Student Dress Code (Supt. Policy 5060)**

In order to promote a safe environment that focuses on education and minimizes distractions students are expected to abide by the following general guidelines as identified in Superintendent Policy 5060.

1. Shirts must be fitted and long enough to naturally touch the top of the lower garment and/or be tucked in;
2. shirts must cover the shoulders;
3. all attire should be sized to fit without exposing undergarments, buttocks, stomachs or cleavage;
4. shorts and skirts must be fingertip length when arms are resting at sides;
5. shoes/sandals must be worn at all times.

The following items or clothing are specifically prohibited:

1. Spaghetti straps, tank tops and halter tops;
2. transparent/mesh clothing;
3. garments, make-up or hair worn in a manner that makes a student’s face unidentifiable;
4. exposed undergarments;
5. pajamas and house slippers;
6. shirts with revealing necklines or armholes;
7. shirts hanging longer than the fingertips when arms are fully extended;
8. hats, caps or sunglasses worn indoors;
9. gloves worn indoors;
10. hairnets, bandanas, and DOO-rags;
11. caps, athletic headbands and armbands (prohibited indoors except when the wearer is participating in a sporting event);
12. clothing or accessories that promote drugs, alcohol or tobacco either by brand or message;
13. clothing or accessories with sexually suggestive language or messages;
14. clothing or accessories that have pictures of guns or weapons, promote violence, criminal activity, intimidation or intolerance of others (based on religion, ethnicity, gender or lifestyle);
15. clothing or accessories that could readily be used as a weapon or might otherwise injure the wearer, including items with spikes or loose hanging chains;
16. attire, accessories or manners of grooming indicative of affiliation with a gang, secret society or disruptive group as defined in Superintendent Policy 5080. This includes, but is not limited to clothing, gang-related colors or numbers, bandanas, sports logos/apparel, make-up, hats, emblems, trademarks, badges, insignia, logos, belt buckles, colored shoe strings, and jewelry;
17. trench coats and other like jackets capable of concealing weapons;
18. clothing or accessories affiliated with Insane Clown Posse, including all items related to the band’s record label “Psychopathic Records” and other groups it sponsors in addition to Insane Clown Posse, including but not limited to Twiztid, Blaze, BoonDox, Psychopathic Rydaz and Dark Lotus; and
19. professional athletic team jerseys, and

20. Hair restraints, gloves, goggles, or other protective attire, determined by staff to be necessary for safe participation in vocational programs.

Dress guidelines for special events or school-sponsored purposes, including but not limited to dances, extra-curricular activities, and fundraisers shall be at the discretion of school administration based upon the nature of the particular event. Students may avoid the risk of being asked to leave or change clothing at an event by having attire approved in advance by an administrator.

All middle and high school students are required to wear an unaltered visible school issued photo identification card (ID) on a school issued lanyard on their outermost garment above the waist during school hours, or at such times, locations, and activities specifically identified by the building principal.

6.0 Uniforms may be required with Superintendent approval.

7.0 Students who violate or are suspected to be in violation of this policy shall be referred to school administration for investigation. Sanctions up to a five (5) day suspension may be imposed for any single violation of this policy.

Except when other contributing policy violations or safety concerns exist, the typical progression of intervention for dress code violations is:

1st Offense – warning and education about the policy and the student being provided an opportunity to correct the violation.

2nd Offense – sanctions up to one (1) day out-of-school suspension and requirement that parent and student review and sign a statement indicating their understanding of the “Student Dress Code” policy.

3rd Offense – sanctions up to three (3) days out-of-school suspension and required parent meeting as a condition of re-entry for the purpose of reviewing the “Student Dress Code” policy and discussing the consequences of future violations..

4th or Subsequent Offenses – sanctions up to a five (5)-day out-of-school suspension for each repeat violation.

Additional factors as identified in Policy 5010 may also be considered in determining appropriate sanctions and interventions.

The Superintendent authorizes the Executive Directors of Schools to grant WRITTEN waivers to this policy as appropriate.

### **Violence, Fights and Aggressive Behavior (Supt. Policy 5070)**

Superintendent Policy 5070 prohibits fights or other violent or aggressive behavior. Fights are defined as making offensive contact with another person. Attempts to make unwanted physical contact are also considered an offense for purposes of this policy. To avoid fights or aggressive interactions students are responsible to make all possible efforts to avoid the conflict and to seek the help of a staff member.

Policy 5070 further prohibits encouraging fights, videotaping or electronically sharing images of school-related fights, or helping arrange fights. Fighting offenses may result in consequences up to expulsion from school.

### **Gangs, Secret Societies and Disruptive Groups (Supt. Policy 5080)**

School districts are required by Colorado law to adopt policies regarding gang-related activities in school. Superintendent Policy 5080 defines a gang, secret society or disruptive group as a group of three or more individuals, whether formal or informal, sharing a common name, interest, bond, confederation, alliance, initiation practice, network, conspiracy, or activity characterized by criminal or delinquent conduct, whose members individually or collectively engage in or have engaged in a pattern of such activity.

Wearing, displaying or possessing items that signify identification with disruptive groups is prohibited on school campuses, at all school-sponsored activities, on all school transportation, and at all school bus stops. Any evidence reasonably demonstrating the existence of or membership in any disruptive group shall be admissible in any disciplinary action or proceeding brought by the District.

Examples of prohibited items, behaviors or actions which may be indicative of gang, secret society or disruptive group affiliation include but are not limited to:

1. Colors / Numbers – A common color or number used to represent affiliation with the disruptive group. Colors and numbers may be represented through, but not limited to, clothing, bandanas, nail polish, sports logos/apparel, make-up, or other items that display a “color” or number on a person or possession.
2. Signs – Verbal or Physical – Statements, gestures, signals, or signs flashed by individuals either to members of their own disruptive group as communication or identification, or intended as taunts or challenges to others.
3. Graffiti – A drawing, symbol, phrase, cryptic writing, code, icon, logo, or written word used to express opinions, membership in a disruptive group or gang, about other groups or gangs, or direct challenges to others.
4. Apparel / Jewelry – Hats, bandanas, emblems, trademarks, badges, insignias, logos, belts, belt buckles, colored shoe strings, jewelry or other clothing that identify the individual with the disruptive group and/or that carries meaning for the disruptive group.
5. Manner of Grooming – Tattoos, hairstyles, and other unifying marks (i.e. manner of shaving, piercings) indicative of affiliation with or that carries meaning for a disruptive group.
6. Recruitment – Action to knowingly solicit, to invite, recruit, encourage, coerce, or otherwise cause another to actively participate in or become a member of a disruptive group. Furthermore, recruitment also includes the use of force, threat, or intimidation directed at any person, or by the infliction of bodily injury upon any person, thereby preventing the individual from leaving a disruptive group.

Action up to and including expulsion from school may be considered for any single violation of this policy depending upon the nature of the offense, the severity of the situation, and the student’s discipline history. Unless the student has a prior discipline history, or unless other policy violations or safety concerns exist, the typical progression of consequences for violations of this policy are:

1. 1st Offense – warning and education about the policy, school based sanctions including suspension up to three (3) days out of school, and a requirement that student and parent review and sign a statement indicating their understanding of this policy.

2. 2nd Offense – up to five (5) days out-of-school suspension and a required parent meeting as a condition of re-entry for the purpose of reviewing this policy and the consequences of future violations.
3. 3rd or Subsequent Offenses – up to a five (5) day out-of-school suspension and potential expulsion from school.
4. All violations of this policy which involve violence, threats of violence, or an immediate risk to the safety of students or staff shall result in suspension out-of-school for a minimum of three (3) days.

#### **Student Habitually Disruptive Behavior (Supt. Policy 5090)**

A student may be declared to be habitually disruptive after a series of suspensions and interventions, and may be expelled for habitually disruptive behavior as explained in Superintendent Policy 5090. A habitually disruptive student is defined as a student who has been suspended out of school a minimum of three (3) times during the school for behavior that caused a material and substantial disruption at school, on school property including transportation, or at school events.

A remedial discipline plan in the form of a contract between school administration, the student and parents should be developed and monitored when students have been suspended and may be at risk of future violations that would result in a habitually disruptive designation. Remedial discipline plans may be implemented for potential habitually disruptive students without parent or student consent in the event that either should refuse to participate in the planning and intervention process.

#### **Student Weapons in School (Supt. Policy 5100)**

Consistent with the district's obligation to provide a safe and secure environment, Superintendent Policy 5100, Student Weapons in School, prohibits students being in possession of any dangerous weapon or dangerous item at school, during school activities, or on any district property.

Knives or other instruments with sharpened blades or edges that might easily be used as a weapon are not permitted at school, regardless of the length of the blade. Exceptions include scissors and other sharpened instruments commonly used during supervised educational activities. Possession of a firearm on any Adams 12 property mandates expulsion from the district for the first offense. Other weapons violations are subject to sanctions and interventions as described in the policy depending on circumstances at the time.

In addition, Superintendent Policy 8700, Weapons, specifically makes it a violation for any pupil, staff member, volunteer, or visitor to possess a firearm, explosive device, knife with a blade longer than three (3) inches, or other dangerous weapon when in a district facility; on district grounds; at any or district activity, regardless of location; or on any district vehicle. This restriction does not apply to School Resource Officers or other law enforcement officers who are legally required to carry a weapon to perform their job. Any other request for an exception from this restriction should be communicated in writing to the Superintendent.

#### **Bullying, Harassment or Threats (Supt. Policy 5110)**

Superintendent Policy 5110 addresses the negative impact that bullying has on student health, welfare and safety and on the learning environment. Bullying, as defined by state law, is any written or verbal expression, or physical act or gesture, or a pattern thereof, intended to cause distress upon one or more students.

Bullying based upon a student's race, gender, religion or creed, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability may actually constitute harassment. Harassment is specifically prohibited by Superintendent Policy 8400 (Nondiscrimination/Harassment), a summary of which may be found elsewhere in this book.

All administrators, teachers, classified staff, parents and students shall take all reasonable steps to prevent and / or address bullying.

1. Students who have been bullied should report the situation to an administrator or teacher.
2. Students who witness bullying should report it to a staff member.
3. School staff who witness bullying should take action to stop the bullying and to report the situation for appropriate administrative intervention.
4. School administrators should promptly investigate and respond to bullying reports.

Students who bully others will be subject to disciplinary action as described in Superintendent Policy 5000, Student Code of Conduct. In addition to discipline sanctions, schools may implement intervention strategies as appropriate.

#### **Off-Campus Behavior (Supt. Policy 5120)**

Behavior which takes place on or off campus may result in discipline sanctions up to and including expulsion from school when such behavior was or is likely to be detrimental to the welfare or safety of other students or of school personnel, including behavior that creates a threat of physical harm to the student or other students. Such misconduct may include, but is not limited to, any of the behavior violations identified in Superintendent Policy 5000, Student Code of Conduct.

In determining whether off-campus misconduct is or is likely to be detrimental to the welfare or safety of students or school personnel, the administrator shall consider, among other relevant factors: the extent to which other District students were involved in or present during the off-campus misconduct; the proximity to school and the school day; and the known or predicted negative impact or effect the misconduct had or is likely to have on the school environment. The existence of criminal charges and/or a criminal adjudication in relation to off-campus behavior may also be considered in determining whether the misconduct warrants school sanctions.

### **Search and Seizure (Supt. Policy 5130)**

Superintendent Policy 5130 authorizes district officials to conduct a search when on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased or otherwise used by the district or school, or at a school activity, when there is a reasonable suspicion that the search will result in the discovery of "contraband," which includes all substances or materials prohibited by district/school policy or state law including, but not limited to, drugs, drug paraphernalia, alcoholic beverages, guns, knives, weapons, incendiary devices, and dangerous items.

Under conditions specified in policy, automobiles parked on or being operated on school property or at a school activity may also be subject to search by school officials.

When possible, an involved student shall be informed of the reason for a search, and the official conducting the search shall attempt to secure the student's consent to the search. The scope of a search must be no more intrusive than is reasonably necessary under the circumstances.

Inappropriate items found during the course of a search may be seized and at the discretion of school administration such items may be returned to the parent or guardian of the student from whom the items were seized; offered as evidence in any suspension or expulsion proceeding if they are tagged for identification at the time seized; turned over to law enforcement officers; or destroyed.

Many district secondary schools utilize random canine searches from time to time to deter students from bringing contraband on district property. Such searches involve trained dogs and their handlers scanning property or general areas, but never individuals. Should a dog alert its handler to the possible presence of contraband, the handler would notify school officials. A canine alert constitutes reasonable suspicion for school officials to conduct a search following the procedures established in Superintendent Policy 5130.

### **Corporal Punishment (Supt. Policy 5140)**

Superintendent Policy 5140 prohibits the use of corporal punishment by any staff member. Corporal punishment is defined as spanking or physically handling a student in any way to purposefully inflict punishment. Permission to administer corporal punishment shall not be sought nor accepted from any parent, guardian, or school official.

### **Physical Restraint/Seclusion (Supt. Policy 5150)**

Superintendent Policy 5150 permits district personnel, acting within the scope of employment, to use and apply restraint or force as is reasonable and necessary to restrain or prevent a student from threatening physical injury to self or others; to obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects; for the purpose of self-defense; for the protection of persons or student safety.

Law enforcement will act according to their agency guidelines regarding restraint or force when safety is at issue.

## **COMMONLY REQUESTED INFORMATION**

### **Appeals or Grievances**

Students or parents who wish to appeal a decision or discuss a grievance are asked to respectfully address the matter directly to the staff member who made the decision prior to seeking assistance from the staff member's supervisor, the principal or from District staff. Questions regarding grades, credits, attendance records or student discipline are best addressed at the building level.

Board policy 2.1 provides the right to be heard by the Board when internal hearing procedures have been exhausted and the person alleges that Board policy has been violated to his or her detriment. The policy forbids retaliation against anyone who appeals a decision or files a grievance in a non-disruptive manner.

### **Consolidated Billing**

Starting in July 2013, Adams 12 Five Star Schools will generate a monthly consolidated bill to be sent to District families. In the past, families received one bill per student. The consolidated bill will list all of the students in the household on the same bill. The bill will be e-mailed on the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. Bills will be mailed out in October and March of each year. For more information see [www.adams12.org/consolidated\\_billing](http://www.adams12.org/consolidated_billing).

### **Identification (I.D.) Badges (Supt. Policy 5060)**

All middle and high school students are required to wear a photo identification badge on lanyards approved by the school. Each school has campus-based policies to address replacement of lost ID's and lanyards, as well as issues of non-compliance with the policy. Repeat violators of a schools' ID policy may be subject to discipline sanctions including suspension out of school.

### **Law Enforcement**

Adams 12 Five Star Schools works cooperatively with law enforcement agencies throughout the north Denver metropolitan area. All district secondary schools with the exception of charter or alternative schools have a law enforcement officer known as "School Resource Officer" (SRO) stationed on campus. These officers are also available to assist at elementary schools when the need arises. Law enforcement should be notified by administrators in school related situations that involve suspected criminal violations or any time school safety may be at risk. Law enforcement officers will act consistent with their agency's guidelines in responding to referrals or otherwise becoming involved in school matters.

### **Parking and Driving on District Property**

Parents and students who drive or park on campus are expected operate their vehicle in a safe manner complying with all signs and parking only in appropriately designated areas. Failure to follow parking and driving guidelines may result in warnings, vehicles

being towed, referrals to law enforcement or loss of the privilege of driving on campus. Students may also face discipline sanctions for driving violations on campus that jeopardize the safety of others.

Information about parking fees and regulations for high school students is provided in each high school's handbook.

### **Post-Secondary Planning and Enrollment Options (Supt. Policy 6285)**

Students in 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade may be eligible to enroll for coursework in a state institution of higher education, with costs reimbursed by the District, provided specific eligibility and academic criteria are satisfied. Parents and students interested in more information about post-secondary enrollment options are encouraged to review participation guidelines described in Superintendent Policy 6285 or to request information in the counseling offices.

### **Services for Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities are afforded certain rights including those described in the following notifications regarding "Section 504" and Special Education. Parents or guardians who believe their child may have a disability requiring special accommodations or support services may contact the administrative office of their child's school for more information about assessment and eligibility for such services.

Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act is a nondiscrimination statute barring discrimination on the basis of one's disability. It is the policy of Adams 12 Five Star Schools not to discriminate on the basis of disability in its educational programs, activities or employment policies as required by the Act. The Act requires Adams 12 Five Star Schools to locate, evaluate and determine if the student is a qualified individual requiring accommodation necessary to provide access to educational programs. Parents are entitled to have the opportunity to review relevant educational records under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Parents or guardians disagreeing with the decisions reached by school personnel for accommodations necessary for access to educational programming and/or facilities may request a hearing before an impartial hearing officer by notifying the school principal.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 guarantees basic rights and provides the framework for special education services. Every student between the ages of 3 and 21 with a disability is assured a public education at no cost to the parent. The public education is to be appropriate to the needs of the student. In addition, students with disabilities must be educated in the least restrictive environment.

### **Student Pickup**

As part of our continuing effort to ensure the safety of all students, students will only be released to parent(s)/legal guardian(s) prior to the end of the school day. If your child will be checked out before the end of the day by someone other than a parent/legal guardian you must contact the school office prior to the child being released. If we have not heard from you in advance we will attempt to contact you. If we are unable to contact you, the child will not be released and will remain at school until the end of the day. Parents may consent in writing to allow other individuals to pick up their child prior to the end of the school day without first obtaining permission from a parent/legal guardian. If you would like to authorize other people to pick-up your child(ren) (this includes step-parents) please request a *Student Pick-Up Authorization* form from your child's school and return it to the school. This authorization remains in effect until revoked by the parent/legal guardian.

### **Students' Right to Expression (Supt. Policies 5650, 5670, 6260)**

Superintendent Policies 5650 and 5670 acknowledge students' right to dissent peacefully, including the right of legal protest through proper channels, provided such dissent does not interfere with the educational process or result in harm to persons or property. Policy 6260 describes guidelines by which students may exercise expression in school-sponsored publications. Students should be aware of their rights and responsibilities according to the guidelines established in each policy.

### **Teacher Qualification Information**

Federal law allows parents to request information regarding the professional qualifications of their student's classroom teacher, including whether the teacher is teaching under emergency licensing, the area of study in which the teacher majored in college and degrees and endorsements that the teacher has achieved. Parents may also request information regarding the qualifications of any paraprofessional staff member providing service to their child. Parents who would like to request this information should contact the administration of their child's school.

### **Translation Services**

Schools are responsible for arranging translation services for discipline actions, teacher conferences, back to school or open house events, non-emergency medical information, student attendance, or academic performance concerns. Please contact the school administration office if you have any questions regarding translation services. Translation assistance is also available upon request for deaf or hearing impaired students or families.

### **Transportation (Supt. Policy 3600)**

Bus service will be available for elementary students that live more than one and one-quarter miles from school, middle school students who live more than two miles from school, and high school students that live more than two and one half miles from school. Students who ride buses may be expected to walk up to the same distance as walk in students as described above to the nearest bus stop. Students are encouraged to arrive at the bus stop at least five minutes before the scheduled pickup time.

Students who ride the bus to or from school are required to have a bus pass card at all times. There is no charge for the initial bus pass card. There is a \$5.00 fee for replacement of lost cards is \$5.00.

Students who ride the bus one or more times within a month will be assessed a \$15.00 monthly fee, with a \$30.00 per month maximum per household. The maximum fee per household per school year is \$300. The fees will be assessed to the youngest active student in the family even if he/she does not ride a bus. Students eligible for transportation as a related service within their Individual Education Plan will have their fees waived. Fees will also be waived for students who qualify for free or reduced price meal plans, participate in Title I school choice, or who are homeless. Information about payment options is available at [www.adams12.org/en/transportation](http://www.adams12.org/en/transportation) or by calling the Transportation Office at 720-972-4300.

District bus drivers are well trained in working with students toward providing a positive riding atmosphere. Passengers are expected to show respect for others including fellow passengers, drivers, sponsors, motorists, residents and property owners. A point infraction system is utilized to document and intervene in response to behavior issues. Students may temporarily or permanently lose the privilege of riding the bus for extreme or reoccurring behavior infractions. Discipline consequences including suspension or expulsion from school may also be warranted depending on the severity and nature of the situation. The transportation point infraction system can be found on the district website and in Superintendent Policy 3600, Student Transportation. For more information on school transportation call 720-972-4300.

#### **Video and Audio Monitoring (Supt. Policy 3520)**

Superintendent Policy 3520, Video and Audio Monitoring, allows video surveillance to be utilized in schools, on school property, and on transportation provided by the district. Many cameras are equipped with audio recording capabilities as well. Such monitoring may assist in deterring misbehavior and may provide evidence to be presented in student discipline hearings, court proceedings, and similar venues. Recordings may be used in student discipline investigations and as evidence in school discipline matters including suspension or expulsion cases. Recordings may also be used to prosecute crimes against property, students or staff. Recordings will be made available as appropriate to school administration and law enforcement, or as otherwise may be required for disclosure by subpoena.

Students will not be notified when a recording device has been installed or is being utilized in a specific vehicle or building. Students should proceed with the assumption that their conduct and comments in public places (e.g., school hallways, buses, athletic facilities, etc.) may be recorded by video and audio devices.

#### **Visitors to Schools (Supt. Policy 1200)**

Parents and visitors are welcome in district schools or facilities. For the safety of students, staff and visitors, Superintendent Policy 1200, Visitors to Schools, provides guidelines regarding school visits. Visitors should report to the school office or building reception area and follow all check-in procedures upon arrival. Building visit procedures typically include presenting identification, signing a visitor log, wearing a visitor identification card, and / or being accompanied by a staff member. In some schools scanning software exists to verify that there are no individual criminal concerns that might jeopardize school safety. Classroom visits by parents or guardians should be requested and approved by the principal prior to the visit to avoid disruption of the learning environment.

Visitors who fail to abide by district and school guidelines for visitors may be requested to leave school property and may be subject to future restrictions regarding school visits as explained in Superintendent Policy 1210, Public Conduct on School Property. Law enforcement or district security staff may also be contacted.

## **STUDENT HEALTH INFORMATION**

### **Allergies, Immunizations and Medications at School**

#### **Administration of Medications at School (Supt. Policy 5420)**

Generally children do not need to take medication during the school day. However, when your doctor prescribes a prescription or over-the-counter medication that must be taken at school, Superintendent Policy 5420 identifies the steps which must be followed:

1. All medication given at school must have a medication request form signed by both a parent/guardian and a physician. It must provide information stating the name of the medication, the dosage, when the medication needs to be taken and why the medication is being given. These medication request forms are available at school. This policy applies to prescription medication and all over-the-counter medications such as Tylenol, cough syrups, eye drops, ointments, etc. Cough drops are not considered medication under this policy, and therefore, parent and physician authorization is not required for a student to have them at school.
2. Medication must be provided by the parent in a pharmacy labeled bottle prescribed for the student or in the original over-the-counter container.
3. All medication is kept in a locked area in the school health office. Students are typically not allowed to keep medication with them (in their lunch box, backpacks, etc.).
  - a. Students may carry certain medications when a physician specifically authorizes this in writing. Those medications may include (1) inhalers necessary to control asthma or other respiratory conditions; and (2) other medications for serious health conditions which may require immediate intervention. See your school's District RN to review and sign Self-carry contract on an annual basis.
4. The health aide or other designated staff will administer prescribed medication according to parent/physician instructions. All medication administered at school is recorded on the student's medication record and initialed by the staff person administering the medication.
5. All unused medication not picked up will be discarded by a registered nurse at the end of the school year.

6. To save time and repeat doctor visits, please have your physician complete or fax a written permission for the school at the time he/she prescribes any medication that may be administered at school. If necessary, two containers (one for school and one for home) can be requested at your pharmacy.

### **Food Allergies (Supt. Policy 5415)**

The District recognizes that many students are diagnosed with potentially life-threatening food allergies. To address this issue and meet state law requirements concerning the management of food allergies and anaphylaxis among students, Superintendent Policy 5415, Students with Food Allergies, establishes procedures to provide appropriate support plans for students with food allergies.

The Students with Food Allergies Policy provides guidelines for the development of a health care plan with the assistance of the licensed school nurse. Such plans typically address communication and emergency instructions between school officials and emergency responders, as well as reasonable accommodations to reduce the student's exposure to agents that may cause allergic reactions. Plans may also include staff training provisions, access to emergency medications and provisions under a "Section 504" or an Individual Education Plan when appropriate as determined by law.

### **Head Lice**

Head lice are described as an infestation of head hair by adult lice, larvae or nits (eggs). Itching is the main sign. Eggs hatch in one week and are capable of multiplying in two weeks. A special lice shampoo treatment sold at pharmacies helps to kill the nits. After the shampoo treatment it's important to thoroughly comb out the nits from the hair.

If a child is found to have head lice/untreated nits at school the child will be allowed to remain in school until the end of the school day. The child can be re-admitted to school once treatment is done at home. The child must report to the health office upon returning to have hair check for the presence of live lice/lice nits.

### **Health Services**

The school district provides registered nurses to train, delegate, and monitor various school staff on health procedures needed for students during the school day. The registered nurses also provide consultation to school staff and/or parents on medical concerns and often serve as medical liaisons between schools and outside agencies.

A trained health aide staffs the School Health Office. The health aide is responsible for providing minor first aid to students who become sick or are injured while at school, for administering prescribed medications, and for maintaining student health records. Other designated staff members may provide coverage in the health office when the school health aide is not available.

For more information about support for students with health needs please refer to the policies referenced or contact the District's Coordinator of Section 504 and Health Services at 720-972-7107.

### **Illness or Injury**

If your child is seriously injured or ill at school and requires care beyond the facilities of the school, an attempt will be made to contact you as well as calling emergency medical personnel (911) for treatment and/or transportation to a proper facility.

When a child becomes ill or is injured at school the health aide or other school staff will determine if your child can remain at school safely. Schools do not have adequate facilities or staffing to keep ill children at school for long periods of time. Therefore, it is essential that parents immediately inform schools of address and phone number changes.

Children should typically be kept home if the following symptoms are present. If you have questions, or are unsure of whether to keep your child home from school please consult with your physician, or call your school health aide or district registered nurse.

1. Rashes –Child with a body rash without fever or behavior changes usually does not need to stay home from school. Any rash, with or without a fever, that spreads quickly, has open weeping wounds or is not healing should be evaluated. Call the doctor.
2. Vomiting and Diarrhea –Child should stay home until symptom-free for one day.
3. Fever of 100 or more – Child should stay home until fever free for 24 hours without the use of medication (Tylenol or Ibuprofen).
4. Strep Throat – Child may return after 24 hours of antibiotic treatment and when symptom-free.
5. Common Cold – Keep your child at home if your child is not "feeling well", has a fever, has a lot of nasal discharge, or has a persistent cough.
6. "Pink Eye" (Conjunctivitis) – Consider keeping your child home if he/she has a fever, behavior changes, excessive drainage and/or the inability to prevent the spread of infection.
7. Impetigo – Child should stay home until your physician advises their return.
8. Chicken Pox – Child should stay home for approximately one week after symptoms appear or until all papules (water-filled lesions) are scabbed or crusted over.
9. Persistent Cough – Child should stay home if the cough is persistent or disrupts class.
10. Untreated drainage from a wound, eye or ear infection – Child should stay home until physician advises his or her return.

In general, if you are unsure whether or not to send your child to school, you should keep your child home for a day. Please let the school know any time your child has a communicable disease or serious illness.

### **Immunizations (Supt. Policy 5410)**

Superintendent Policy 5410 describes student immunization requirements consistent with Colorado law. Children who do not meet the requirements listed in policy will be denied admission to school. All students must submit a completed Certificate of Immunization or Exemption upon enrollment.

You must provide one of the following to your child's school in order to comply with the law:

1. An Up-to-Date Certificate of Immunization from a licensed physician or authorized representative of the department of health or local health department certifying that your child has received immunization against communicable diseases as specified by the State Health Department; or
2. Statement of Exemption to Immunization Law printed on the reverse side of the Colorado Department of Health Certificate of Immunization:
  - a. medical exemption signed by licensed physician stating that the child's physical condition is such that immunizations would endanger life or health; or
  - b. religious exemption signed by parent or guardian or emancipated child that he/she adheres to a religious belief whose teachings are opposed to immunizations; or
  - c. personal exemption signed by parent or guardian or emancipated child that he/she adheres to a personal belief opposed to immunizations.

### **Medicaid School Health Services Program**

As a Medicaid provider, Adams 12 Five Star Schools will access Medicaid eligibility information for students enrolled in the Adams 12 Five Star Schools from Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF). HCPF is the designated Medicaid agency in the state. Directory information of names, date of birth, and gender will be released to the HCPF to verify Medicaid eligibility of students in the District. With consent, the description of health and health-related services delivered to Medicaid eligible students will be released to Medicaid and/or the district billing agent for proper administration of the program. A dated record of all transactions will be kept on file at the Adams 12 Five Star Schools Medicaid office. Parents may revoke their consent at any time, by calling the Medicaid office at 720-972-4790. School Medicaid reimbursement does not affect the family's other Medicaid benefits in any way.

Parental consent must be obtained under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) regulations at 34 CFR part 99 and the IDEA regulations at §300.622 before the school district discloses, for claiming purposes, your child's personally identifiable information to the agency responsible for the administration of the State's public benefits or insurance program (e.g., Medicaid). If you refuse to provide consent for the disclosure of personally identifiable information to the agency responsible for the administration of the State's public benefits or insurance program (e.g., Medicaid), or, if you give consent but then later withdraw consent, that does not relieve the school district of its responsibility to ensure that all required services are provided at no cost to the parents.

### **Nutrition Services and Student Wellness (Supt. Policies 3700, 3710, 3720)**

Superintendent Policy 3700 and its subsections describe the District's commitment to promoting good nutrition and physical activities. Information about free or reduced price meals, costs of meals, a la carte food offerings, and student meal charge accounts is available at each school's kitchen or administrative office. Information may also be found on the District's website under the parent resource link.

Schools along with parents can play a major role in reducing the number of overweight and obese children and youth. Schools are a place where students can gain the knowledge, motivation, and skills needed for lifelong physical activity and lifelong healthy eating habits and are also a place for students to practice these habits. Nutritional content of foods and beverages sold by Nutrition Services are available on the District's website and in the school kitchens. In support of student wellness schools are expected to provide access to healthful items for fundraisers, classroom parties, and other school activities.

Superintendent Policy 3710 discourages the use of food as a reward, and prohibits the denial of food as a form of punishment. The policy further explains that physical activity should typically not be used as a form of punishment.

### **The Rocky Mountain Youth Clinics Ronald McDonald Care Mobile Program**

- A medical mobile from The Rocky Mountain Youth Clinics will be parked at two different sites throughout the Adams 12 School District during the 2014-2015 school year. Any student and his/her siblings in the Adams 12 school district can be seen on the medical mobile. Medical and dental services are available for children ages birth-18.
- The medical mobile services are free for those with Medicaid and low cost for uninsured and underinsured individuals (\$10/visit). The medical mobile staff also accepts private insurance for the cost of the co-pay. To make an appointment parents can call 720-837-4761.

### **Student and Family Outreach Program**

The Adams 12 Student and Family Outreach Program strives to ensure that all Adams 12 students have health insurance and access to needed health-related services. Our goal is for all Adams 12 students to be healthy and ready to learn, enabling them to succeed in all of their academic and social endeavors.

- We provide Medicaid/Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+) application assistance to families by meeting by appointment in their home school
- Qualify eligible students for Medicaid or CHP+ health insurance within 10 days
- Help families gain access to needed community resources

If you would like more information please contact us at 720-972-6249 or [healthinsurance.adams12.org](http://healthinsurance.adams12.org)

## **Suicide Prevention**

Protecting the health and well-being of all students is of utmost importance to the Adams 12 Five Star School District. Superintendent Policy 5520 addresses suicide assessments as a priority to protect all students.

Adams 12 will treat all threats or attempted suicides as serious regardless of the degree of lethality involved. When a student threatens or attempts suicide, the Adams 12 personnel will follow Superintendent Policy and respond accordingly.

The following steps have been taken to help protect all students:

1. Students will learn about recognizing and responding to warning signs of suicide in friends, using coping skills, using support systems, and seeking help for themselves and friends.
2. When a student is identified as being at risk, he or she will be assessed by a District mental health professional that will work with the student and help connect the student to appropriate local resources.
3. Students will have access to national resources which they can contact for additional support, such as:
  - **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – 1.800.273.8255 (TALK), [www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org)**
  - **The Trevor Lifeline – 1.866.488.7386, [www.thetrevorproject.org](http://www.thetrevorproject.org)**
4. All students will be expected to help create a school culture of respect and support in which students feel comfortable seeking help for themselves or friends. Students are encouraged to tell any staff member if they, or a friend, are feeling suicidal or in need of help.
5. Students should also know that because of the health and safety impacts of these matters, the confidentiality and privacy rights of individuals will be respected but concerns are secondary to seeking help for students in crisis.
6. For a more detailed review of District processes, please see the District's full suicide prevention guidelines document.

## **Vision and Hearing Screening**

Vision and hearing screening is mandated for all students in kindergarten, first, second, third, fifth, seventh, and ninth grade levels; for children new to the district and for any child with a suspected deficiency. This screening does not include extensive testing. If a deficiency is found parents are contacted and advised to arrange for a more complete evaluation.

# **Coordinated School Health**

## **Healthy Students = Better Learners**

The District is now actively implementing a coordinated and focused approach to the health and well-being of our students, schools, staff, and community through the Coordinated School Health (CSH) model.

- **By the end of the 2015-2016 school year, at least 80% of Adams 12 schools will be actively implementing Coordinated School Health.**

CSH is considered a gold standard and best practice in school districts around the country and looks at the whole child through these eight components of health and wellness:

- Physical Education
- Health Education
- Health Service
- Nutrition Services
- Healthy School Environment
- Family and Community Involvement
- Counseling/Psychological/Social Services
- Health Promotions for Staff

Because the health of young people is strongly linked to their academic success, and vice versa, the Centers for Disease Control recommends **CSH as a strategy for improving students' health and, subsequently, their ability to learn and be academically successful.**

## **CSH at Your School**

- CSH is implemented at each school by a School Wellness Team led by two co-leaders (staff and/or parents)
- School Wellness Teams are made up of health and wellness champions representative of the eight above components of CSH.
- The most successful School Wellness Teams have strong student, parent, and family involvement.
- Make sure your voice is heard! To learn more about CSH, join or find out more about your School's Wellness Team, or find out how you can ensure that your school is part of CSH:
  - Call or email District Wellness Coordinator, Jill Collins, at 720-972-4712 or [jill.collins@adams12.org](mailto:jill.collins@adams12.org).
  - Visit the district Health & Wellness webpage at: [https://www.adams12.org/nutrition\\_health\\_wellness](https://www.adams12.org/nutrition_health_wellness).

Current versions of all policies referenced are available in their entirety at [www.adams12.org](http://www.adams12.org)

# STATE OF COLORADO

John W. Hickenlooper, Governor  
Christopher E. Urbina, MD, MPH  
Executive Director and Chief Medical Officer

Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

4300 Cherry Creek Dr. S. Laboratory Services Division  
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Located in Glendale, Colorado (303) 692-3090

<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us>



Colorado Department  
of Public Health  
and Environment

December 2013

Dear Parents of Students in Colorado Child Cares and Preschools (School Year 2014-15);

Immunizations are an important part of our children's health care and Colorado law requires that children going to school be vaccinated to prevent vaccine-preventable disease. The purpose of this letter is to let you know which vaccines are **required** for school attendance and which vaccines are **recommended** for best protection against vaccine-preventable disease (see chart on second page).

As a parent, it is important to know that in addition to the vaccines **required** by the state of Colorado Board of Health for school entry, there are vaccines that are **recommended** by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). This is the immunization schedule that will best protect your child from even more vaccine-preventable diseases.

Parents often have concerns or want more information about children's immunizations and vaccine safety. A resource developed for parents with frequently asked questions about the safety and importance of vaccines can be located at: [www.ImmunizeForGood.com](http://www.ImmunizeForGood.com) The Colorado Immunization Section's website is located at: [www.ColoradoImmunizations.com](http://www.ColoradoImmunizations.com).

Child Cares and Preschools work hard to ensure compliance with the immunization laws. Your help in providing updated immunization records at school registration and when your child receives additional vaccine(s) is greatly appreciated. *Please discuss your child's vaccination needs with your child's doctor or local public health agency. (To find your local public health department's contact information call the Family Health Line at 1-303-692-2229 or 1-800-688-7777). Please bring your child's updated immunization records to the school each time your child receives an immunization.*

Sincerely,

Colorado Immunization Program  
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment  
303-692-2650

# STATE OF COLORADO

John W. Hickenlooper, Governor  
Larry Wolk, MD, MSPH  
Executive Director and Chief Medical Officer

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[www.colorado.gov/cdphe](http://www.colorado.gov/cdphe)



Colorado Department  
of Public Health  
and Environment

December 2013

Dear Parents of Students in Colorado Schools, K through 12th Grades (School Year 2014-15),

Immunizations are an important part of our children's health care, and Colorado law requires that children going to school be vaccinated to prevent vaccine-preventable disease. The purpose of this letter is to let you know which vaccines are required for school attendance and which vaccines are recommended for best protection against vaccine-preventable disease (see chart on second page).

As a parent, it is important to know that in addition to the vaccines required by the state of Colorado Board of Health for school entry, there are vaccines that are recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). This is the immunization schedule that will best protect your child from even more vaccine-preventable diseases.

Parents often have concerns or want more information about children's immunizations and vaccine safety. A resource developed for parents with frequently asked questions about the safety and importance of vaccines can be located at: [www.ImmunizeForGood.com](http://www.ImmunizeForGood.com) . The Colorado Immunization Section's website is located at: [www.ColoradoImmunizations.com](http://www.ColoradoImmunizations.com) .

Schools work hard to ensure compliance with the immunization laws. Your help in providing updated immunization records at school registration and when your child receives additional vaccine(s) is greatly appreciated. Please discuss your child's vaccination needs with your child's doctor or local public health agency. (To find your local public health department's contact information call the Family Health Line at 1-303-692-2229 or 1-800-688-7777). Please bring your child's updated immunization records to the school each time your child receives an immunization.

Sincerely,

Colorado Immunization Section  
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment  
303-692-2700

**MINIMUM NUMBER OF DOSES REQUIRED FOR CERTIFICATE OF IMMUNIZATION**  
Kindergarten through Grade 12, 2014-15 Required for School Attendance.

VACCINE	Number of Doses	Grades K-12 (5-18 Years of Age)
<b>Pertussis</b> <i>DTaP only licensed through 6 yrs of age.</i>	5 to 6	5 <b>DTaP</b> ( if dose 4 was administered on or after the 4 <sup>th</sup> birthday, the requirement is met). The final dose of DTaP must be administered no sooner than 4 years of age. <b>Tdap</b> req. 6 <sup>th</sup> through 12 <sup>th</sup> grades.
<b>Tetanus/Diphtheria</b> <i>DT only licensed through 6 yrs of age.</i>	3 to 5	5 <b>DT</b> ( if dose 4 was administered on or after the 4 <sup>th</sup> birthday, the requirement is met). If child is 7 yrs of age or older, must have 3 appropriately spaced tetanus/diphtheria containing vaccines (DTaP, DT, Td, Tdap) - 4 wks between dose 1 & 2 and 6 mos between dose 2 & 3
<b>Polio (IPV)</b>	3 to 4	4 <b>IPV</b> ( if dose 3 was administered on or after the 4 <sup>th</sup> birthday, requirement met). Final dose must be given no sooner than 4 <sup>th</sup> birthday.
<b>Measles/Mumps/Rubella (MMR)</b> <i>Proposed for this school year – 1 dose of Rubella meets requirement.</i>	2	The 1 <sup>st</sup> dose cannot be administered more than 4 days before the 1 <sup>st</sup> birthday. 2 doses required for K thru 12 <sup>th</sup> grades.
<b>Varicella (Chickenpox)</b> <i>Documentation of disease from a health care provider (physician, RN or PA) is required.</i>	1 or 2	The 1 <sup>st</sup> dose cannot be administered more than 4 days before the 1 <sup>st</sup> birthday. 2 doses are required for children entering K through 7 <sup>th</sup> grade. 1 dose is required for 8 <sup>th</sup> through 12 <sup>th</sup> grades.
<b>Hepatitis B</b> <i>Students who have not received 3 doses of Hep B vaccine prior to 7/1/2009 must follow the minimum intervals recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)</i>	3	The second dose must be administered at least 4 weeks after the first dose. The third dose must be administered at least 16 weeks after the first dose and at least 8 weeks after the second dose. The final dose is to be administered no sooner than 24 weeks (6 mos) of age. The 2-dose series is acceptable for ages 11-15 years. 2 doses can only be accepted using the approved vaccine for the 2-dose series with proper documentation (name of the vaccine, dosage, dates, and interval).

**RECOMMENDED VACCINES FOR THE BEST PROTECTION**  
AGAINST VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASE

VACCINE	Number of Doses	Grades K-12 (5-18 Years of Age)
<b>Influenza (Flu)</b>	1 to 2	<i>Vaccines administered ≤ 4 days before the minimum age are valid</i> 2 doses initially if under 9 yrs of age with a minimum interval of 28 days between doses, then 1 dose annually, thereafter. Recommended for children 6 months of age and older.
<b>Meningococcal Meningitis (MCV)</b>	1 to 2	Adolescents 11-18 years of age
<b>Human Papillomavirus (HPV)</b>	3	Adolescents 11-18 years of age.
<b>Hepatitis A (Hep A)</b>	2	All children 1 year and older

For REQUIRED vaccines: A laboratory test showing immunity is acceptable.

**You must provide one of the following to your child's school in order to comply with the law:**

1. A completed Certificate of Immunization certifying that the student has received minimum immunizations.
2. If a student's Certificate of Immunization is not up to date, the parent/guardian or emancipated student has 14 days after direct notification to provide documentation that the next required immunization was administered and submit a written plan for completion of any additional required immunizations. If the plan is not completed, the student shall be expelled or suspended from school for non-compliance. Exception to this rule is a shortage of vaccine.
3. Statement of Exemption to Immunization - Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Certificate of Immunization:
  - a) a **medical** exemption signed by licensed physician stating that the student's physical condition is such that immunizations would endanger life or health or is otherwise medically contraindicated; or
  - b) a **religious** exemption signed by the parent, guardian, or emancipated student that the student adheres to a religious belief opposed to immunizations; or
  - c) a **personal** exemption signed by the parent, guardian, or emancipated student that the student adheres to a personal belief opposed to immunizations.

**Immunization requirements will be strictly enforced for all students.** Students who do not meet the requirements will be denied attendance according to Colorado Revised Statutes 25-4-902.





## INDEPENDENCE ACADEMY– 2014-2015\*

JULY 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

AUGUST 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	D	D	16
17	D	D	D	FS	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

SEPTEMBER 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	D	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

OCTOBER 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	PT	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	D/Q	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

NOVEMBER 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	C	27	28	29
30						

DECEMBER 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	Q	D	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

**F First Day of School for Students**  
FS-August 21, 2014 ALL Students K-12 Report

**L Last Day of School for All Students**  
May 27, 2015

**D Teacher Duty Days (No School for All Students)**  
August 14-20, 2014  
September 19, 2014  
October 17, 2014  
December 19, 2014  
January 5, 2015  
February 6, 2015  
February 13, 2015  
March 13, 2015  
April 24, 2015  
May 1, 2015  
May 28, 2015

**C Teacher Comp Day – All Schools**  
November 26, 2014

**PT Parent Teacher Conferences**  
October 9, 2014 4:00 – 7:30  
March 5, 2015 4:00 – 7:00

**Q Quarters Days**  
Oct. 17, 2014 44  
Dec. 18, 2014 41  
Mar. 13, 2015 48  
May 27, 2015 47

*Pupil Count Window.....September 24 – October 8, 2014*

### Calendar Information

Registration of New Students..... Please Contact Your Local School  
School Year Starts, All Students Report..... August 21, 2014  
Labor Day ..... September 1, 2014  
Veterans' Day ..... November 11, 2014  
Thanksgiving Break..... November 27-28, 2014  
Winter Break ..... December 22, 2014- January 2, 2015  
All Students Return ..... January 6, 2015  
Martin Luther King Day ..... January 19, 2015  
Presidents' Day..... February 16, 2015  
Spring Break ..... March 23-27, 2015  
Memorial Day..... May 25, 2015  
Last Day for Students ..... May 27, 2015  
CMAS: Science/Social Studies 12<sup>th</sup> grade..... November 3 – November 21  
PARCC: 6<sup>th</sup> grade – 10<sup>th</sup> grade..... March 9 – April 3  
CMAS: Science/Social Studies 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade..... April 13 – May 1  
PARCC: 6<sup>th</sup> grade – 10<sup>th</sup> grade..... April 27 – May 22  
ACT: 11<sup>th</sup> grade..... April 28

JANUARY 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	D	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

FEBRUARY 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	D	7
8	9	10	11	12	D	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

MARCH 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	PT	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	D/Q	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

APRIL 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	D	25
26	27	28	29	30		

MAY 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					D	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	LQ	D	29	30
31						

JUNE 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				